Southern Christian Leadership Conference

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July 12, 1965

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Dear Mr. Engel:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date inviting me to visit Israel sometime in the near future. I am certainly anxious to spend some time in Israel whenever this is possible. I view Israel as one country in the world that is making some really significant social experiments and I look forward to the opportunity of seeing them firsthand.

Presently the demands on my time are of such that I feel that I must stay in this country. We are anticipating a trip to Africa about the time of the Organization of African Unity meeting in Ghana and it may be possible to include Israel at this time. I would prefer making a special trip to Israel when I could afford to spend more time but this could not be possible until next Spring, and I can never be sure of what the demands of the civil rights movement in this country will be at that time.

Please convey my best wishes to Mr. Harman and Mr. Comay and kindly explain to them the difficulty of scheduling such a visit at this time.

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter you wrote to President Truman. Were it not for the faith of many of my friends, it would be much more difficult to stand up under the barbs and jibes of the many people who

misunderstand our drive to make the American dream a reality for all men.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Km